



New Haven Democracy Fund

"To ensure that all the citizens of New Haven have a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in the election of mayor."
New Haven Code of General Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article XI, §2-821 • Established in 2007 • democracyfund@newhavenct.net



DEMOCRACY FUND BOARD MEETING

LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP

6:15 Wednesday, June 19, 2019

New Haven City Hall – 165 Church Street

Second Floor, Conference Room 2

New Haven Democracy Fund Board:

Sergio Rodriguez, Chair

James O'Connell

William Wynn

Aaron Goode (absent)

(Three Seats Vacant)

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

Minutes:

1. A moment of silence was held for Jack Paulishen, a board member who passed away on June 13, 2019.

Board members shared comments about Jack for the record:

Rodriguez: Prayers and thoughts go out to his family. Jack was an inspiration to students and he will be missed.

Wynn: Sad day in New Haven, great man and friend. I will miss him and I know New Haven will too! God bless Jack's family. RIP my brother!

O'Connell: Jack & his son were frequent ushers (passing the basket) at our church and I realized how much his illness was affecting him the last time I saw him do this about 6-8 weeks ago. Quite an honor to get to know Jack over the last few years and his presence will be sorely missed. I really enjoyed talking with my fellow teacher, and New Haven certainly lost a very good person.

Goode: He gave life and meaning to the credo 'Democracy is not a spectator sport' - it is hard to imagine a greater teacher and practitioner of active citizenship, or a better ambassador for the promise and possibilities of education as what John Dewey called the "nutrition of democracy." RIP Jack.

2. Call to Order & Attendance

Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:23pm.

3. Statement by the Board Chair on the passing of Jack Paulishen.

4. Administrator's Report

- a. Discussion on the hearing held on May 29th regarding matching fund mechanism in the ordinance.

A workshop was held May 29, 2019 and a variety of people were invited to share experiences and thoughts about the history of the fund. In light of that, we requested an independent counsel and full opinion was rendered.

- b. Review of Independent Counsel Opinion prepared by Lawrence Eisner.

O'Connell motioned to accept the letter from Lawrence Eisner for the purposes of opening up the discussion. Discussion on the letter was held and key sections were read aloud to the room. The full letter will be made available to the public on the Democracy Fund Website. The letter was accepted 3-0-0.

Wynn motioned to accept the invoice and direct the Finance Department to release the funds to pay the invoice. Approved 3-0-0.

- c. Vote to release additional funds

Rodriguez motioned to vote to release \$11,172 in additional funding to match the first two hundred contributions submitted by the Elicker Campaign. Approved 2 - 0 - 1.

- d. Proposed change(s) to Regulation language.

The first 200 qualifying donations are to be matched 2 to 1. William Wynn will be the sole member of a committee to explore regulations language to clarify the position of the Board on this matter.

4. Candidate update - Urn Pendragon attended and answered questions about her intentions in the Mayor's race and possible use of the Fund. Pendragon is awaiting endorsements from Unite Here, AFL-CIO, Working Families Party, Emily's List, and FLAGG.

5. Administrator contract renewal.

Administrator's contract ends on June 30, 2019. Moved to final agenda item.

6. Public Comment

Gage Frank, Campaign Manager for the Elicker Campaign, thanked the Board for providing eCris access.

6. New Business

The Election Day Task Force, of which O'Connell is a member, met to discuss new polling locations within public buildings. Many of the facilities did not have appropriate access to resources, phone, heat, etc. EDR may be relocated to Dwight Hall.

Wynn requested that Administrator Heimer update all boards and commissions related-pages to reflect that he is a registered Republican.

Rodriguez motioned to move to executive session, 3-0-0.

Executive session began at 7:29pm to discuss personnel evaluations and contract extension.

Executive session ended 7:46pm .

Wynn moved to extend the administrator's contract to begin on July 1, 2019 and end on June 30, 2020.

Wynn motioned to approve scope of services. Approved 3-0-0.

The Democracy Fund Board moves to accept the Scope of Services for the 2019 - 2020 fiscal year provided by the Administrator and approved by the Board Chair. The Board authorizes the Finance Department to disburse a stipend for Administrator services between July 2019 and June 2020 on a monthly basis in the amount of \$2,500.00. Approved 3-0-0.

Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 7:50pm.